

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An apparatus for providing backing for U-shaped studs in a wall, said backing apparatus comprising:
 - 5 a first backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a bottom, a first side and a second side;
 - a second backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a bottom, a first side and a second side;
 - a hinge operatively attached to said first side of said first and second
 - 10 backing members for permitting said second backing member to pivot with respect the first backing member between a first position wherein the first side of each of said first and second backing members are substantially in the same plane and a second position whereby the first and second backing members are not in the same plane, whereby said first backing member can be placed between a first and second adjacent upright U-
 - 15 shaped stud, the second backing member pivoted with respect to the first backing member to the second position, and then pivoting said second backing member to a the first position thereof to be disposed between said second upright U-shaped stud and a third upright U-shaped stud closer to said second upright U-shaped stud than to said first upright U-shaped stud, whereby said second end of said first backing member is
 - 20 adjacent to and on one side of the second upright U-shaped stud and the first end of the second backing member is adjacent to and on the other side of said second upright U-shaped stud; and
 - said first backing member having a vertical groove in the said first side thereof for receiving a flange of the second upright U-shaped stud, said groove being at
 - 25 least partially covered by said hinge when the first and second backing members are in the first position thereof.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 including:

a third backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a bottom, a first side and a second side;

5 said second backing member having a vertical groove in the said first side thereof for receiving a flange of a U-shaped stud, said groove being at least partially covered by said hinge when the second and third backing members are in the first position thereof; and

 a second hinge operatively attached to said first side of said second and
10 third backing members for permitting said third backing member to pivot with respect to the second backing member between a first position wherein the first side of each of said second and third backing members are substantially in the same plane and a second position whereby the second and third backing members are not in the same plane, whereby said second backing member can be placed between said second and third
15 adjacent upright U-shaped studs, the third backing member pivoted with respect to the second backing member to the second position, and then pivoting said third backing member to the first position thereof to be disposed between said third upright U-shaped stud and a fourth upright U-shaped stud closer to said third upright U-shaped stud than to said second upright U-shaped stud, whereby said second end of said second backing
20 member is adjacent to and on one side of the third upright U-shaped stud and the first end of the third backing member is adjacent to and on the other side of said third upright U-shaped stud.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein each of said backing members has a
25 vertical groove in said first side thereof adjacent each end thereof whereby a flange of an upright U-shaped stud can extend therein.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of said backing members has a
vertical groove in said first side thereof adjacent each end thereof whereby a flange of
30 an upright U-shaped stud can extend therein.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 including a horizontal member extending between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and on top of said first backing member, said horizontal member having a cross-section like one of said studs including a pair of flanges and wherein each of said backing members has a horizontal groove in said first side thereof adjacent the top and bottom thereof whereby a flange of said horizontal can extend therein.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 including a horizontal member extending between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and on top of said first backing member, said horizontal member having a cross-section like one of said studs including a pair of flanges and wherein each of said backing members has a top horizontal groove in said first side thereof adjacent the top and a bottom horizontal groove adjacent the bottom thereof whereby a flange of said horizontal can extend therein.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 including a top backside backing member substantially identical to said first backing member, said backside backing member being disposed between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and one flange of said horizontal member extends into the top horizontal groove of the first backing member and the other flange of said horizontal member extends into the top horizontal groove of the backside backing member.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 including a bottom backside backing member substantially identical to said first backing member, said backside backing member being disposed between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and one flange of said horizontal member extends into the bottom horizontal groove of the first backing member and the other flange of said horizontal member extends into the bottom horizontal groove of the backside backing member.

9. The apparatus of claim 6 including a bottom backside backing member substantially identical to said first backing member, said backside backing member being disposed between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and one flange of said horizontal member extends into the bottom horizontal groove of the first backing member and the other flange of said horizontal member extends into the bottom horizontal groove of the backside backing member.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hinge is comprised a flexible sheet.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said sheet is comprised of metal.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hinge is comprised a flexible metal sheet having projections therein extending into said backing members for holding the flexible sheet metal hinges attached to said first and second backing members.

13. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said backing members are constructed of wood.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein sheet rock is attached to said upright U-shaped studs adjacent to said front side thereof of the backing members, thereby covering said studs and said backing members.

15. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said horizontal member comprises a fire resistant material for creating a fire break.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said horizontal member and said studs are made of metal.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said metal is galvanized steel.

18. An apparatus comprising:
- a first upright U-shaped stud;
 - a second upright U-shaped stud to one side of and spaced from said first
 - 5 U-shaped stud;
 - a third upright U-shaped stud to one side of and spaced most closely to said second U-shaped stud;
 - a first backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a bottom, a first side and a second side, said first backing member being disposed between said
 - 10 first and second studs;
 - a second backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a bottom, a first side and a second side, said second backing member being disposed between said second and third studs;
 - a hinge operatively attached to said first side of said first and second
 - 15 backing members for permitting said second backing member to pivot with respect the first backing member between a first position wherein the first side of each of said first and second backing members are substantially in the same plane and a second position whereby the first and second backing members are not in the same plane, whereby said first backing member can be placed between a first and second adjacent vertical stud
 - 20 the second backing member pivoted with respect to the first backing member, and then pivoting said second backing member to a position to be disposed between said second vertical stud and said third stud adjacent to said second stud whereby said second end of said first backing member is adjacent to and on one side of the first stud and the first end of the second backing member is adjacent to and on the
 - 25 other side of said first stud.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 including:
a third backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a bottom,
a first side and a second side;
5 said second backing member having a vertical groove in the said first
side thereof for receiving a flange of a U-shaped stud, said groove being at least
partially covered by said hinge when the second and third backing members are in the
first position thereof; and
a second hinge operatively attached to said first side of said second and
10 third backing members for permitting said third backing member to pivot with respect
the second backing member between a first position wherein the first side of each of
said second and third backing members are substantially in the same plane and a second
position whereby the second and third backing members are not in the same plane,
whereby said second backing member can be placed between said second and third
15 adjacent upright U-shaped studs, the third backing member pivoted with respect to the
second backing member to the second position, and then pivoting said third backing
member to the first position thereof to be disposed between said third upright U-shaped
stud and a fourth upright U-shaped stud closer to said third upright U-shaped stud than
to said second upright U-shaped stud, whereby said second end of said second backing
20 member is adjacent to and on one side of the third upright U-shaped stud and the first
end of the third backing member is adjacent to and on the other side of said third
upright U-shaped stud.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein each of said backing members has a
25 vertical groove in said first side thereof adjacent each end thereof whereby a flange of
an upright U-shaped stud can extend therein.

21. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein each of said backing members has a
vertical groove in said first side thereof adjacent each end thereof whereby a flange of
30 an upright U-shaped stud can extend therein.

22. The apparatus of claim 22 including a horizontal member extending between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and on top of said first backing member, said horizontal member having a cross-section like one of said studs including a pair of flanges and wherein each of said backing members has a horizontal groove in said first side thereof adjacent the top and bottom thereof whereby a flange of said horizontal can extend therein.

23. The apparatus of claim 18 including a horizontal member extending between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and on top of said first backing member, said horizontal member having a cross-section like one of said studs including a pair of flanges and wherein each of said backing members has a top horizontal groove in said first side thereof adjacent the top and a bottom horizontal groove adjacent the bottom thereof whereby a flange of said horizontal can extend therein.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 including a top backside backing member substantially identical to said first backing member, said backside backing member being disposed between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and one flange of said horizontal member extends into the top horizontal groove of the first backing member and the other flange of said horizontal member extends into the top horizontal groove of the backside backing member.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 including a bottom backside backing member substantially identical to said first backing member, said backside backing member being disposed between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and one flange of said horizontal member extends into the bottom horizontal groove of the first backing member and the other flange of said horizontal member extends into the bottom horizontal groove of the backside backing member.

26. The apparatus of claim 23 including a bottom backside backing member substantially identical to said first backing member, said backside backing member being disposed between said first and second upright U-shaped studs and one flange of said horizontal member extends into the bottom horizontal groove of the first backing member and the other flange of said horizontal member extends into the bottom horizontal groove of the backside backing member.

27. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said hinge is comprised a flexible sheet.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said sheet is comprised of metal.

29. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said hinge is comprised a flexible metal sheet having projections therein extending into said backing members for holding the flexible sheet metal hinges attached to said first and second backing members.

30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said backing members are constructed of wood.

20

31. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein sheet rock is attached to said upright U-shaped studs adjacent to said front side thereof of the backing members. thereby covering said studs and said backing members.

32. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said horizontal member comprises a fire resistant material for creating a fire break.

25

33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said horizontal member and said studs are made of metal.

30

34. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said metal is galvanized steel.

35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein sheet rock is attached to said studs and covers said backing members.

5 36. The apparatus of claim 2,
 wherein said first second and third upright U-shaped studs are
 equidistantly spaced from adjacent studs and an additional upright U-shaped stud that is
 not spaced equidistantly from one of the first and third upright U-shaped studs; and
 a corner wall backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a
10 bottom, a first side and a second side, said corner wall backing member being disposed
 between said first and second studs, a flange operatively attached to and extending in a
 plane substantially the same or parallel thereto as the plane of the first side of the
 backing member, said flange being attached to said second upright U-shaped member
 and said first end of said backing member being attached to said first upright U-shaped
15 member.

 37. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first said hinge and second hinge
 are formed of one piece of flexible sheet metal which extends across said first, second
 and third backing member.

20

 38. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said flexible sheet of metal extends
 beyond from said first stud to said fourth stud whereby said flexible sheet can be
 attached to said first, second, third and fourth studs.

39. An apparatus comprising:
a first upright U-shaped stud;
a second upright U-shaped stud to one side of and spaced from said first
5 U-shaped stud; and
a backing member (Figs. 1 and 13-16) having a first end, a second end, a
top, a bottom, a first side and a second side, said corner wall backing member being
disposed between said first and second studs, a flange operatively attached to and
extending in a plane substantially the same or parallel thereto as the plane of the first
10 side of the backing member, said flange being attached to said second upright U-shaped
member and said first end of said backing member being attached to said first upright
U-shaped member.

40. The apparatus of claim 39 wherein sheet rock is disposed to cover said
15 studs and said extends close to and over the first side of said backing member.

41. A method of using an apparatus of a type comprising:
a first upright U-shaped stud;
a second upright U-shaped stud to one side of and spaced from said first
20 U-shaped stud;
a third upright U-shaped stud to one side of and spaced most closely to
said second U-shaped stud;
a first backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a bottom,
a first side and a second side, said first backing member being disposed between said
25 first and second studs;
a second backing member having a first end, a second end, a top, a
bottom, a first side and a second side, said second backing member being disposed
between said second and third studs; and
a hinge operatively attached to said first side of said first and second
30 backing members for permitting said second backing member to pivot with respect the
first backing member between a first position wherein the first side of each of said first

and second backing members are substantially in the same plane and a second position whereby the first and second backing members are not in the same plane;

said method comprising:

- 5 placing said first backing member between a first and second adjacent vertical stud;
- pivoting the second backing member with respect to the first backing member to the first position thereof;
- pivoting said second backing member to the first position thereof; and
- 10 moving said second backing member to a position between said second vertical stud and a third stud adjacent to said second stud whereby said second end of said first backing member is adjacent to and on one side of the first stud and the first end of the second backing member is adjacent to and on the other side of said first stud.